

Attorney Docket No.: DC-0315
Inventors: Chang and Sugii
Serial No.: 10/534,295
Filing Date: June 9, 2005
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method for detecting intracellular cholesterol comprising contacting a permeabilized cell with labeled C θ complex and detecting the binding of labeled C θ complex to cholesterol.

Claim 2 (original): A method for identifying an agent that modulates cholesterol accumulation comprising exposing mutant *NPC1* cells to a test agent, evaluating the level of cholesterol accumulation in the mutant *NPC1* cells exposed to the test agent, and comparing the evaluated level to the level of cholesterol accumulation in mutant *NPC1* cells not exposed to the test agent, wherein a decrease in the level of cholesterol accumulation in the mutant *NPC1* cells exposed to the test agent as compared to the level in mutant *NPC1* cells not exposed to the test agent is indicative of the test agent being a cholesterol inhibitor.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the mutant *NPC1* cells comprise CHO CT43 or CT60 cells.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein levels of cholesterol accumulation are evaluated via binding of labeled C θ complex.

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Claim 5 (original): A method for identifying an agent that modulates cholesterol accumulation comprising exposing mutant *NPC1* cells to a test agent, evaluating the level of cholesterol accumulation in the mutant *NPC1* cells exposed to the test agent, and comparing the evaluated level to the level of cholesterol accumulation in parental cells not exposed to the test agent, wherein the level of cholesterol accumulation in the mutant *NPC1* cells exposed to the test agent is equal to the level of cholesterol accumulation in the parental cells not exposed to the test agent is indicative of the test agent being a cholesterol inhibitor.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the mutant *NPC1* cells comprise CHO CT43 or CT60 cells and the parental cells comprise CHO 25RA cells.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein levels of cholesterol accumulation are evaluated via binding of labeled C0 complex.

Claim 8 (original): A method of inhibiting over accumulation of cholesterol in cells comprising administering to the cells a cholesterol inhibitor identified by the method of claim 2.

Claim 9 (original): A method of inhibiting over accumulation of cholesterol in cells comprising administering to the cells a cholesterol inhibitor identified by the method of claim 5.

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Claim 10 (original): A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder associated with over accumulation of cholesterol in cells comprising administering to a patient a cholesterol inhibitor identified by the method of claim 2.

Claim 11 (original): A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder associated with over accumulation of cholesterol in cells comprising administering to a patient a cholesterol inhibitor identified by the method of claim 5.